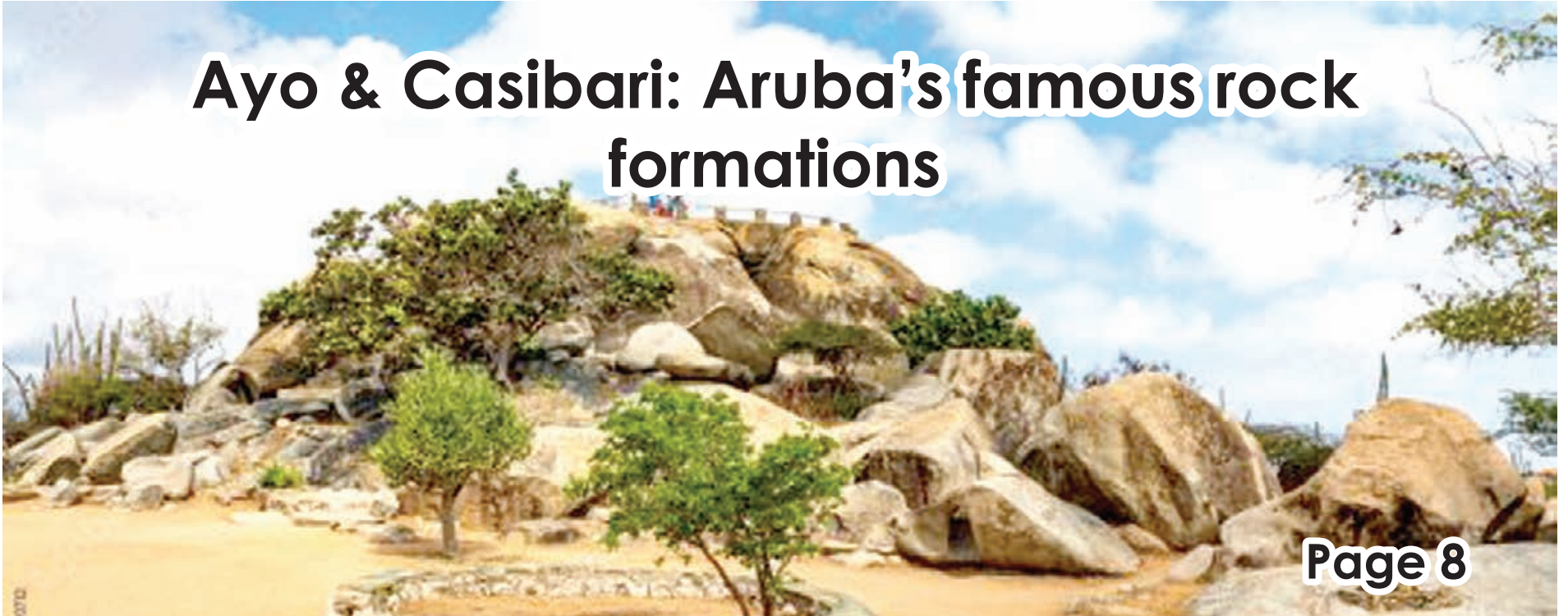




Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



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Retired Adm. Robert P. Burke, 63, right, accompanied by his attorney, walks out of the federal courthouse after being sentenced to six years in prison for his conviction on corruption charges, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Retired 4-star Navy admiral sentenced to 6 years in prison for bribery plot

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A retired four-star U.S. Navy admiral was sentenced on Tuesday to six years in prison for his conviction on corruption charges that he agreed to exchange a military contract for a lucrative postretirement job.

Retired Adm. Robert P. Burke — once the second-highest uniformed officer in the Navy — was commanding its forces in Europe and Africa when he engaged in a bribery plot with two business executives, according to federal prosecutors.

A jury convicted Burke of four counts, including conspiracy and accepting a bribe, after a trial in May. A separate trial for Burke's two co-defendants Next Jump co-CEOs Yongchul "Charlie" Kim and Meghan Messenger ended with a hung jury and a mistrial last Thursday.

Burke, 63, declined to address the court before U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden in Washington, D.C., sentenced him.

"This was blatantly unlawful, as you well knew," the judge told him. "But you did it anyway."

The judge told Burke that he betrayed the public's trust and his oath of office.

"This is a sad day and a sad chapter in the U.S. Navy," McFadden said.

Prosecutors sought a 10-year prison sentence for Burke, saying he abused his powerful position to enrich himself at the Navy's expense.

"Burke's conduct was as blatant and egregious as it was damaging to the public's trust in its leaders and corrosive to the integrity of the procurement system," prosecutors wrote. "His offense demands accountability. His crime calls out for punishment."

Burke's attorneys say they will appeal his convictions. They cited his "lifetime of extraordinary public service" in asking the judge to spare Burke from a prison sentence.

"This is not a case of a career criminal," they wrote. "It is the case of a single, tragic, and aberrant chapter at the very end of a life defined by honor, courage, and commitment."

Kim and Messenger agreed to pay Burke a \$500,000 salary with stock options projected to be worth millions of dollars, according to prosecutors. In exchange, they said, Burke ordered his staff to give a contract to Next Jump and promoted the company's product to other senior Navy commanders. □

Sotomayor urges better civic education so people know difference between presidents and kings

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, questioning whether Americans understand the difference between a king and a president, told a New York Law School crowd Tuesday that improved civic education across the country would help people make better decisions.

Sotomayor, speaking at a panel discussion during a "Constitution and Citizenship Day Summit," did not make comments that were overtly political and did not directly address any controversies of the moment. President Donald Trump was not mentioned.

At one point, though, she raised doubts about how much Americans are being taught about civics in schools.

"Do we understand what the difference is between a king and a president? And I think if people understood these things from the beginning, they would be more informed as to what would be important in a democracy in terms of what people can or shouldn't do," she said.

She decried the lack of education about civics and how democracy works, even giving her version of Ben Franklin's famous anecdote at the end of the constitutional Convention in Philadelphia when he was asked whether the nation would have a republic or a monarchy.

"We have a republic, madam, if we can keep it," she recalled that Franklin said.

Sotomayor called social media "one of the largest causes of misinformation on the internet."

"If you are only hearing one side of the story, you are not making an informed decision," Sotomayor said. "The world is a complex place and issues are always difficult." □



Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor speaks at the New York Law School's Constitution and Citizen Day Summit, in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

Democrats stake out opposition to spending bill, raising threat of a shutdown

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Democratic leaders lashed out Tuesday at a short-term spending bill to avoid a partial government shutdown at the end of the month, warning Republicans they will not support a measure that doesn't address their concerns on the soaring cost of health insurance coverage for millions of Americans.

House Republicans unveiled the spending bill Tuesday. It would keep federal agencies funded through Nov. 21, buying lawmakers more time to work out their differences on spending levels and policy for the coming fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. Republicans said that they were providing exactly what Democrats have insisted upon in past government shutdown battles a clean funding bill free of partisan policy riders.

"It'll be a clean, short-term continuing resolution, end of story," House Speaker Mike Johnson told reporters. "And it's interesting to me that some of the same Democrats who decried government shutdowns under President Biden appear to have no heartache whatsoever at walking our nation off that cliff right now. I hope they don't."

The bill would generally fund agencies at current levels, with a few limited exceptions, including an extra \$88 million to boost security for lawmakers and members of the Supreme Court and the executive branch.

The proposed boost comes as lawmakers face an increasing number of personal threats, with their concerns heightened by last week's assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries have been asking their Republican counterparts for weeks for a meeting to negotiate on the bill, but they say that



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., talks about the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk and defended employers who take action against their workers whose comments go too far, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

Republicans have refused. Any bill needs help from at least seven Democrats in the Senate to overcome procedural hurdles and advance to a final vote.

The two Democratic leaders issued a joint statement Tuesday after Republicans unveiled the short-term funding bill, saying that by "refusing to work with Democrats, Republicans are steering our country toward a shutdown."

"The House Republican-only spending bill fails to meet the needs of the American people and does nothing to stop the looming health-care crisis," Schumer and Jeffries said.

"At a time when families are already being squeezed by higher costs, Republicans refuse to stop Americans from facing double-digit hikes in their health insurance premiums."

The House is expected to vote on the measure by Friday.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said he would prefer the Senate take it up this week as well. But any bill will need some Democratic support and it's unclear whether that will happen.

In past budget battles, it has generally been Republicans who've been willing to engage in shut-

down threats as a way to focus attention on their priority demands. That was the situation during the nation's longest shutdown in the winter of 2018-19, when President Donald Trump insisted on money to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall.

A 16-day shutdown in 2013 occurred as Republicans demanded significant changes to then-President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in exchange for funding the government and permitting Treasury the borrowing latitude to pay the nation's bills. This time, however, Democrats are facing intense pressure from their base of supporters to stand up to Trump. □

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Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, left, and Police Chief Brian O'Hara stand during a news conference about a Department of Justice report that found the Minneapolis Police Department has engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination, June 16, 2023, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

More than a dozen injured in Minneapolis shootings at homeless camp and near transit station

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Eight people have been wounded, including four with critical injuries, in a shooting at a homeless camp on private property in Minneapolis, police said.

The shooting happened just hours after and blocks away from another shooting that left five injured near a transit station as city officials acknowledge a spate of recent violent crime in the area.

Those shootings come during a particularly violent summer for the Minneapolis area. That includes the assassination of Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband in their home, as well as the shooting of another state lawmaker and his wife the same day in June. A mass shooting at a Minneapolis church in late August killed two children and injured 21 others.

Police learned of the shooting at the homeless encampment around 10 p.m. Monday when an off-duty officer working at a nearby retail store was approached by people running from the camp and reporting gunfire, Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said in a news conference following the city's latest mass shooting. The officer left the store and heard gunfire

coming from the encampment area.

Officers arriving at the scene found five people injured by gunfire, including a woman and two men with life-threatening injuries. Another man and a woman suffered what appeared to be non-life-threatening wounds, with each having injuries to their legs. All five were rushed to a hospital.

Police later learned that three other people, including one with life-threatening injuries, walked or were taken to hospitals before police arrived. O'Hara said no arrests had been made in either the encampment shooting or the earlier shooting near the transit station.

"Unfortunately, here we are yet again in the aftermath of a mass shooting," O'Hara said.

"This is not normal."

The latest shooting happened at a homeless camp in a parking lot that has been at the center of a legal conflict between the owner of the property, Hamoudi Sabri, who opened it up to the homeless in July, and city officials who want it shut down. Sabri has refused to shut down the camp, and earlier this month, the city sued him to try to force the camp's closure. □

Indiana man charged with sending online threat that caused US Naval Academy lockdown

By BRIAN WITTE

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — An Indiana man has been charged in federal court with making a threat across state lines related to a lockdown and shooting at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland last week, the U.S. attorney's office in Indiana said Tuesday.

Jackson Fleming, 23, was arrested Friday on suspicion of sending an online threat through a social media application concerning the academy, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana said in a news release. Fleming, of Chesterton, Indiana, was charged with one count of transmitting a threat in interstate communication, the release said.

Jonathan Bedi, Fleming's attorney, wrote in an email that "we intend to fight these charges in court vigorously."

"No one, including Jack, should be judged by a mere accusation from the government," Bedi wrote. "We are prepared to mount the strongest possible defense, and I am confident that when the complete facts emerge, Jack will be vindicated."

The threatening post triggered a lockdown at the academy Thursday. It prompted authorities to respond to what turned out to be a false report of a gunman. And during the investigation, a midshipman who had mistaken security as a threat was shot in the shoulder in the ensuing confusion. The academy said in a statement last week there was no active shooter threat.

The wounded midshipman was released from the hospital Friday. A member of the naval security force also received minor injuries, the academy said, and was treated at a hospital before being released.

The false report was made amid anxiety over a spate of recent violence at schools nationwide, including the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at a Utah college. □



Food delivery orders are left near the entrance of the U.S. Naval Academy, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, in Annapolis, Md.

Associated Press

Dutch king calls for compromise as political turmoil leads to more elections

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — King Willem-Alexander appealed Tuesday for the return of a Dutch culture of compromise as the increasingly polarized Netherlands heads to the polls next month for its fourth general elections in less than nine years.

The king's speech to a joint sitting in a Hague theater of both houses of parliament marks the formal opening of the political year and came against a backdrop of political turmoil and the looming Oct. 29 elections.

"Unfortunately, people in the Netherlands seem increasingly to be at loggerheads on the street, online, at our universities, and not least in The Hague," the king said in his "speech from the throne," that is written by the government. "They have entrenched opinions for or against, black or white. As if one person being right automatically makes another wrong, while in reality the situation is almost always far more complex than that."

Willem-Alexander, whose role as monarch and head of state is largely ceremonial, was speaking in a year when politicians in the ruling coalition were repeatedly at loggerheads. The four-party coalition collapsed in June when anti-immigration populist lawmaker Geert Wilders withdrew his party the biggest in parliament from the administration headed by Prime Minister Dick Schoof, in a dispute over measures to rein in migration. That left



Dutch King Willem-Alexander, seated next to Queen Maxima, outlines the new government's policy plans and budget for the coming year in The Hague, Netherlands, on Sept. 17, 2024.

Associated Press

Schoof in charge of a caretaker administration until a new coalition is formed after the elections. But even in caretaker mode, the chaos deepened, with another party, the center-right New Social Contract, also pulling out its ministers last month in a dispute over imposing sanctions on Israel over its war in Gaza.

"The government understands that it too must display an open, receptive attitude and a willingness to compromise," the king said. "Debate and differences of opinion are part of a living democracy. But so too is having the willingness to see beyond our differences and the maturity to reach out to each other." With only two parties left, the ruling caretaker coalition does not have a majority in the 150-seat lower house of parliament and has only limited powers, leaving the country almost in political limbo until a new government is formed. That process could take many months as parties in the splintered Dutch political landscape seek to find common ground on which to build a new coalition.

The king's speech also touched on foreign policy, saying that two global issues stand out: "Russia's ongoing war of aggression in Ukraine and the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. In both cases, the blood-spilling and horrific loss of human life must be brought to an end as soon as possible."

He said the Netherlands will "continue its path of unwavering military, diplomatic and political support until a lasting peace for Ukraine is achieved." Last week, Dutch F-35 fighter jets flying for NATO helped bring down Russian drones over Poland. The king said that the Dutch government would work "with international partners" to seek a ceasefire in Gaza and will "continue pushing for an end to the violence and decent future prospects for all inhabitants of the region."

Freeland lost the Liberal Party leadership to Carney in March but returned to Cabinet as his transport and internal trade minister. She was Trudeau's most powerful minister, serving as both deputy prime minister and finance minister last December forced Trudeau to eventually say he was resigning as prime minister and party leader. Freeland then ran for the party leadership but received just 8% of the vote. After she resigned as finance minister and deputy prime minister, U.S. President Donald Trump called her "totally toxic" and "not at all conducive to making

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Chrystia Freeland exits Cabinet of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney

By **ROB GILLIES**

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Chrystia Freeland, whose abrupt resignation as finance minister last year forced Justin

Trudeau's exit as Canada's prime minister, resigned Tuesday from the Cabinet of Prime Minister Mark Carney.

In a letter announcing

her departure as minister of transport and internal trade, Freeland said she will not run in the next election, but added she's not leaving to spend more time with her family.

"With tremendous gratitude and a little sadness, I have decided to step down from Cabinet today and turn the page on this chapter in my life," Freeland said.

Carney said Freeland will serve as Canada's new special representative for the reconstruction of Ukraine a newly created position outside Cabinet in addition to her responsibilities as a member of Parliament.

Freeland lost the Liberal

Party leadership to Carney in March but returned to Cabinet as his transport and internal trade minister. She was Trudeau's most powerful minister, serving as both deputy prime minister and finance minister last December forced Trudeau to eventually say he was resigning as prime minister and party leader.

Freeland then ran for the party leadership but received just 8% of the vote. After she resigned as finance minister and deputy prime minister, U.S. President Donald Trump called her "totally toxic" and "not at all conducive to making

deals." Freeland was Canada's point person when the U.S., Canada and Mexico renegotiated their free trade deal during the first Trump administration.

Freeland, who is of Ukrainian heritage, has also been a staunch supporter of Ukraine in its war against Russia.

The former journalist has been a frequent critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who banned her from traveling to the country in 2014 in retaliation for Western sanctions against Moscow.

The 57-year-old Harvard graduate and Rhodes scholar speaks five languages and has influential friends around the world.



Canada's former Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland speaks at a press conference in Toronto, Canada, on Jan. 19, 2025.

Associated Press

Belarus sentences journalist to 4 years in prison, days after release of over 50 political prisoners

By YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — A Belarusian court sentenced Tuesday a prominent independent journalist to four years in prison, days after more than 50 political prisoners were released as part of a U.S.-brokered deal. The opposition and rights activists denounced the ruling as part of a continuing crackdown on dissent.

Ihar Ilyash was convicted on extremism charges for articles and commentaries critical of authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko's government. Ilyash rejected the charges, saying in his final remarks at the trial that "freedom of speech isn't a crime."

Andrei Bastunets, head of the Belarusian Association of Journalists, said the verdict signaled that the Belarusian authorities had no intention to soften their clampdown on independent media.

"Ilyash's sentencing shows ... Belarus remains the Black Hole of Europe and one of the most dangerous places for journalists," Bastunets said, noting that at Ilyash is



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko gestures during a joint news conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin following their talks at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, March 13, 2025.

Associated Press

one of at least 27 journalists are currently behind bars in the country. "Repressions against independent journalists are like revolving doors."

On Thursday, 52 political prisoners were released following a deal brokered by Washington, which lifted some sanctions on the country's national carrier.

The agreement reflected a rapprochement between the U.S. and Belarus, a close ally of Russia that has faced Western isolation for years. U.S. President Donald Trump spoke to Lukashenko on the phone last month and even suggested that a face-to-face meeting could be in the works. That would be a major win for

Lukashenko, who has ruled his nation of 9.5 million with an iron fist for more than three decades. Belarus has faced multiple rounds of Western sanctions for its relentless crackdown on dissent and allowing Moscow to use its territory to invade Ukraine in 2022.

Lukashenko, who has repeatedly released groups

of political prisoners as he has sought to mend ties with the West, pardoned another 25 convicts on Tuesday, including some political prisoners.

In the latest sign of warming ties between Washington and Minsk, U.S. military officers attended a joint Russian-Belarusian military exercise in Belarus this week that was shunned by NATO allies in Europe.

The drill followed last week's incursion of Russian drones into Poland, some of which came from Belarus, condemned by Western officials as a reckless provocation.

"The regime's repressions are continuing despite Trump's pleas, and the government throws new journalists in prison to fill the cells that have been freed," Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who was forced to leave the country after challenging Lukashenko in the 2020 presidential vote, told The Associated Press. "All those journalists have been put in prison just for doing their job and they must be freed." □

Colombia peace court sentences former FARC leaders for their role in thousands of kidnappings

By MANUEL RUEDA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's peace tribunal on Tuesday issued its first sentence on war crimes

committed during decades of internal conflict, finding seven former leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, guilty of imposing policies

that led to the kidnapping of 21,000 people.

The court said that the rebel group kidnapped civilians for ransom to finance its operations, while also depriving soldiers and politicians of their liberty in hopes of exchanging them for imprisoned rebels.

For the next eight years, the former rebel leaders must work on projects to find the bodies of missing people and remove landmines from rural areas. They will also have to engage in symbolic acts of reparation with their victims.

To ensure compliance, the seven leaders will follow a strict schedule and have their movements monitored with electronic devices.

"This sentence does not erase the suffering of the victims," said Camilo Suárez, the lead judge in the case. "But it is the voice that recognizes that what they went through was unjustifiable and inhumane."

The court known as the Special Jurisdiction for Peace was created as part of the 2016 peace deal between the Colombian government and the FARC rebels. It has been praised by legal scholars who have argued that the tribunal has helped to document and uncover the grisly details of Colombia's civil war. But it has also been criticized by Colombians who would like to see harsher punishments for perpetrators of war crimes.

Sebastián Velásquez, a spokesman for the Federation of Victims of Terrorism in Colombia, which represents more than 1,200 victims of Colombia's conflict, said he was disappointed with the ruling, because it did not force the former rebel leadership to provide economic compensation to communities affected by kidnappings.

The victims' group contends that during Colombia's conflict the FARC leadership amassed money in bank accounts and purchased homes, farms and cattle that were transferred to third parties, and could be sold to compensate victims a claim denied by the former FARC leadership. □



Members of Colombia's peace tribunal arrive to read a guilty sentence for war crimes by former leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, in Bogotá, Colombia, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

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Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle

or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on

the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your

right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com





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How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves contin-



ue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the big-

gest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream.

However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand

that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing. Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.□

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the

surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari



is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!□

***Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!**



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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

The Aruban way of life; Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs.

The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today. Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguaná Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi



wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fronds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao,

Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and

start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto



was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw

Aruba to me: Joanne Lo Stuto Vilardi

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without

compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Joanne Lo Stuto Vilardi, from Bluffton, SC.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is the epicenter of happiness and tranquility to be cherished and loved."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCXXI -321

“What Will Remain of Aruba? Part II — How Our Natural Heritage Is Being Paved Away”

Etnia Nativa (Native Ethnicity) is dedicated to recovering and celebrating Aruba's cultural identity and heritage. Through this platform, we share an authentic native perspective, raise awareness, and inspire our readers to embrace the mindset of a caretaker of Aruba.

In our previous episode, *The Price of Paradise...*, we voiced our concerns about the exploitation of our land. In this second part we pose a question that many of us—as residents—ask ourselves daily: How much more of our beloved rock must be destroyed before we choose a different?

We are living in a pivotal moment. Many of Aruba's tourism-driven industries remain focused on maximizing corporate revenue, often with little regard for the long-term consequences. This unchecked and unregulated pursuit of profit is taking a serious toll on our ecosystems, our community's well-being, and our cultural identity.

Our small, beautiful island is straining under mounting pressure. Waste accumulates in natural areas, ecological degradation is accelerating, and the loss of unique native species has become alarmingly visible. Aruba's land and surrounding seas are being reshaped—not by time, but by chemical waste, untreated runoff, reckless construction, and overdevelopment.

Towering beachfront hotels continue to rise, replacing the once-uninterrupted views of our sunsets. Bit by bit, the coastline that generations have cherished is being eroded, both physically and spiritually.

As Aruba's population grows and tourism demands intensify, our limited land has become a battleground between economic development and environmental preservation—a clash between the haves and the have-nots. From the mangroves of Savaneta to the cactus-dotted plains of Noord, concrete is replacing nature. Gated communities, luxury resorts, and sprawling infrastructure now stand where native flora and fauna once thrived—where wetlands once served as natural barriers against floods and storm surges.



The consequences are already unfolding. Coastal erosion is accelerating. Native birds and reptiles are losing their habitats. Flooding during heavy rains is more frequent, especially in areas where natural buffers have been removed. These aren't isolated environmental shifts—they affect public health, community safety, and the very identity that makes Aruba unique. Meanwhile, many local families face a different kind of crisis: rising costs of living and a lack of affordable housing. For young Arubans, the decision is heartbreaking—stay on the island with limited opportunity, or leave in search of a better future. For them, development isn't about luxury; it's about survival—finding stable work, a home, and a reason to stay.

So where is the balance?

Encouragingly, some local initiatives are beginning to emerge—projects that support green building, protect natural corridors, and prioritize community voices in planning decisions. But these efforts are still dwarfed by the relentless pace of large-scale development.

The critical question remains: Can Aru-

ba grow in a way that respects both its people and its environment?

The decisions we make today will not only shape the next few years—they will define our island for generations to come. Now is the time to choose a path that honors the beauty of our land, the resilience of our people, and the future we all deserve.

This article is presented by Etnia Nativa, offering a cultural perspective on the urgent need to rethink the future of tourism in Aruba.

At Etnia Nativa, we invite you to explore the true cultural fabric of Aruba. As the Caribbean's only living museum, we proudly showcase the island's rich mestizaje—a dynamic blend of cultures and traditions.

Since 1994, we've been pioneers in cultural preservation. As co-founders of Aruba's National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and several artisan and community-driven initiatives, we continue to advocate for sustainable, culturally rooted tourism.

Connect with the spirit and soul of Aruba's ancient heritage through a one-of-a-kind experience.

Book your Etnia Nativa Experience today! WhatsApp +297 592 2702 or etniana03@gmail.com 



But Etnia Nativa isn't just a place — it's a gateway. Quietly tucked away near the high-rise hotels, this private residence also serves as a cultural sanctuary, unknown to most tourists. And that's part of its magic. Intentionally exclusive, it welcomes only those with a genuine curiosity and a thirst for authentic discovery.

Connect with the spirit and soul of Aruba's ancient heritage through a one-of-a-kind experience.

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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

ORANJESTAD – At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a wind-swept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach. Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near

the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for

developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weather-

ing from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

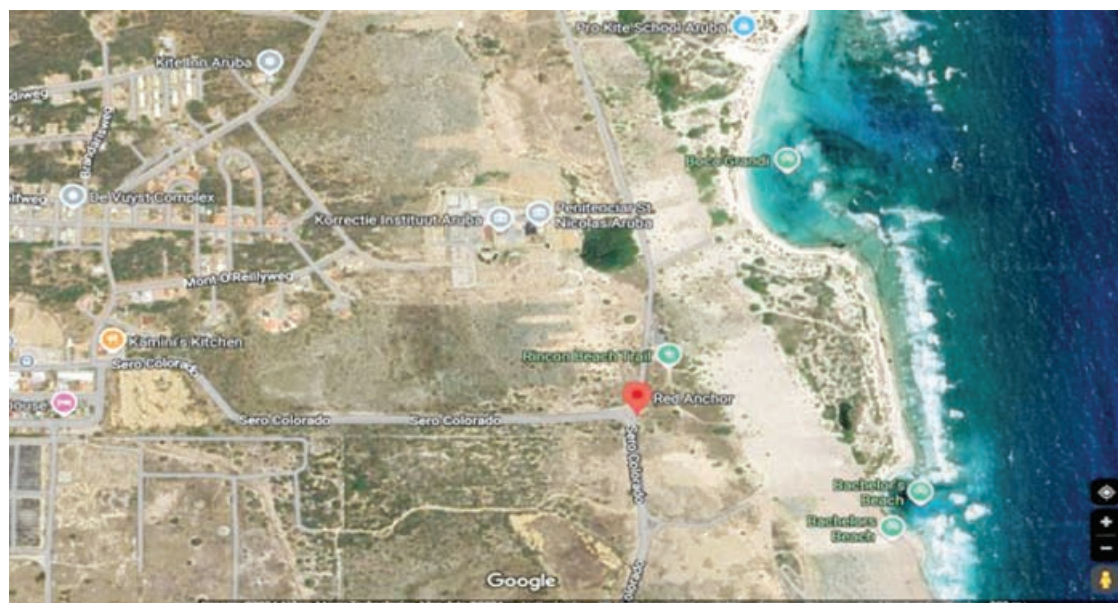
After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.☐



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 44 Spiny plants
- 1 Rough guesses
- 6 Sofa's kin
- 11 Yellowish tan
- 12 Juan's wife
- 13 Last letter
- 14 Shoppers' aids
- 15 Hole number
- 16 Challenging words
- 18 Yale rooter
- 19 Sleuth Spade
- 20 Quite cold
- 21 Splinter group
- 23 Ennui indicators
- 25 Cart puller
- 27 Maui souvenir
- 28 Pesky swarm
- 30 Soft mineral
- 33 Cotillion girl
- 34 Drake's music
- 36 Frilly wrap
- 37 Like most résumés
- 39 Wing
- 40 Terrific
- 41 Be of use
- 43 Pilgrimage site
- DOWN
- 1 Defendant of 1925
- 2 Tex-Mex treat
- 3 Tree with triangular nuts
- 4 Entreat
- 5 Thick cuts
- 6 It has a point
- 7 Director Reitman
- 8 Atlantic resort
- 9 Top stories
- 10 Mean-spirited
- 17 Sun-beam
- 22 Airport screening org.
- 24 Drenched
- 26 Soprano Teresa
- 28 Horror and mystery, for two
- 29 Decline
- 31 Nabokov novel
- 32 Radio show format
- 33 Church tenet
- 35 Dove's desire
- 38 Speed
- 42 Brewery sight

SOFT CLAMOR
USER HARPER
ELLA
DOLPHINS
PANTHERS
CAMERA AIL
ALARM PASTE
POT BUSTED
STEELERS
PATRIOTS
AWAITS SHOE
PATCHY TILE
ERASE SOLD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18				19			20		
21			22		23	24			
25				26		27			
28					29	30		31	32
33				34		35		36	
37			38					39	
40						41	42		
43						44			
45						46			

9-22

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-22 CRYPTOQUOTE

B E D X C D P X C N J D T A X C E X

B N N V P X C N V D R C X F C N Q X C N

A E F Q D P P X D V V A E T I .

— T E J D Q A T E Q E X C X E R M T N

Cryptoquote: I AM NOT AFRAID
OF AN ARMY OF LIONS LED BY A SHEEP; I AM
AFRAID OF AN ARMY OF SHEEP LED BY A LION.
— ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Cruise ship Schedule: Sep 16 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	21.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS	10.00	****	E	1
WED	24	OASIS OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	I	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
SUN	28	GRAND PRINCESS	09.00	17.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	30	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	6	5			8		4	
	4		7					2
				1		6	9	
7	1				5	4	2	9
4		6				1		
	2			4	7		5	6
6			5					1
8			6	2			7	4
5	9							

Difficulty: ★★★

9/17

Answer to previous puzzle

7	9	8	4	3	5	1	6	2
2	1	5	9	8	6	7	4	3
3	6	4	7	1	2	9	5	8
6	2	7	8	9	3	4	1	5
4	8	3	1	5	7	6	2	9
9	5	1	2	6	4	3	8	7
1	3	2	6	7	8	5	9	4
8	7	9	5	4	1	2	3	6
5	4	6	3	2	9	8	7	1

Difficulty: ★★

9/16

Amid bankruptcy, some Publishers Clearing House winners are facing the end of 'forever' prizes

NEW YORK (AP) — For decades, Publishers Clearing House doled out hefty checks on the doorsteps of hopeful consumers across the U.S., including prizes that boasted lifetime payouts. But some of those winners are now facing an end to the "forever" money they were once promised.

The turmoil arrives amid PCH's ongoing bankruptcy process. The sweepstakes and marketing company filed for Chapter 11 in April, citing growing financial strain that spanned from rising operational costs and changes in consumer behavior.

In July, gaming platform ARB Interactive purchased certain assets from PCH for \$7.1 million and established "PCH Digital," a new platform that hosts sweepstakes opportunities. But under the terms of that deal, ARB says it's not responsible to pay out prizes issued by PCH prior to July 15 meaning that the company will not pay people who won sweepstakes before that date, with an exception of two unawarded "SuperPrizes" still being promoted.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, ARB recognized the disappointment for past winners that it said was caused by the bankruptcy process and



Pamela Jonker is presented with a \$1 million check from the Publishers Clearing House Wednesday, Jan. 8, in Eagle, Colo. Associated Press

noted that it was "committed to restoring and preserving the trust" of the PCH brand going forward. ARB added that it was "taking decisive steps to ensure that every future prize winner can participate with absolute confidence." The company pointed to plans for a paying structure "that stands separate from ARB to ensure that all future PCH prizes are honored, regardless of ARB's financial status."

PCH did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Tuesday. It wasn't immediately clear how many past winners of PCH sweepstakes were no longer seeing "forever" checks. At the time of April's Chapter 11 filing, PCH listed 10 unidentified prize winners among its

creditors with the largest unsecured claims totaling millions of dollars, court documents show. □

LOOKING FOR

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RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuero
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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Classifieds

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House For sale

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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For Sale

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Price :\$ 169K
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Gold season
2 BR 2 Bath Ocean side \$14 K
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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Sta. Cruz: Tel.585 8028

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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Oscar winner Robert Redford, who became a champion of independent film, dies at 89

By **BOB THOMAS**
Associated Press

Robert Redford, the Hollywood golden boy who became an Oscar-winning director, liberal activist and godfather for independent cinema under the name of one of his best-loved characters, died Tuesday at 89. Redford died "at his home at Sundance in the mountains of Utah the place he loved, surrounded by those he loved," publicist Cindi Berger said in a statement. No cause of death was provided.

Redford was one of the biggest stars of the '70s with such films as "The Candidate," "All the President's Men" and "The Way We Were," capping that decade with the best director Oscar for 1980's best picture winner, "Ordinary People."

His wavy blond hair and boyish grin made him the most desired of leading men, but he worked hard to transcend his looks whether through his political advocacy, his willingness to take on unglamorous roles or his dedication to providing a platform for low-budget movies.

His roles ranged from Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward to a double agent in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and his co-stars included Jane Fonda, Meryl Streep and



Robert Redford attends the premiere of Netflix's "Our Souls at Night" on Sept. 27, 2017, in New York. Associated Press

Tom Cruise. But his most famous screen partner was his old friend Paul Newman, their films a variation of their warm, teasing off-screen relationship. Redford played the wily outlaw opposite Newman in 1969's "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," a box-office smash from which Redford's Sundance Institute and festival got its name. He also teamed with Newman on 1973's best picture Oscar winner, "The Sting," which earned Redford a

best actor nomination as a young con artist in 1930s Chicago. Film roles after the '70s became more sporadic as Redford concentrated on directing and producing and his new role as patriarch of the independent-film movement. He starred in 1985's best picture champion "Out of Africa" and in 2013 received some of the best reviews of his career as a shipwrecked sailor in "All is Lost," in which he was the

film's only performer. In 2018, he was praised again in what he called his farewell movie, "The Old Man and the Gun." "I figure now as I'm getting into my 80s, it's maybe time to move toward retirement and spend more time with my wife and family," he told The Associated Press at the time. Redford had watched Hollywood grow more cautious and controlling during the 1970s and wanted to recapture the creative

spirit of the early part of the decade.

Sundance was created to nurture new talent away from the pressures of Hollywood. The institute and festival based in Park City, Utah, became a place of discovery for such previously unknown filmmakers as Quentin Tarantino, Steven Soderbergh, Paul Thomas Anderson and Darren Aronofsky.

"For me, the word to be underscored is 'independence,'" Redford told the AP in 2018. "I've always believed in that word. That's what led to me eventually wanting to create a category that supported independent artists who weren't given a chance to be heard."

By 2025, the festival had become so prominent that organizers approved relocating to Boulder, Colorado, starting in 2027.

Redford's affinity for the outdoors was well captured in "A River Runs Through It" and other films and through his decades of advocacy for the environment, inspired in part by witnessing the transformation of Los Angeles into a city of smog and freeways. His activities ranged from lobbying for the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act to serving on the board of the Natural Resources Defense Council. □

Joy Reid and Percival Everett are among winners of the 46th annual American Book Awards

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Former MSNBC host Joy Reid and authors Percival Everett and John Edgar Wideman are among this year's recipients of the 46th annual American Book Awards, which celebrate diversity in American art and culture. The awards are presented by the Before Columbus Foundation, the nonprofit that author-playwright Ishmael Reed helped found in 1976.

Reid, who left MSNBC in February soon after the network canceled her prime time show "The ReidOut," was awarded the foundation's anti-censorship prize. Wideman, an acclaimed fiction and nonfiction writer since the 1960s, has won a lifetime achievement award. Honorees for current works include Everett for "James," his Pu-

litzer Prize-winning retelling of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"; Kaveh Akbar for "Martyr!"; Danzy Senna for "Colored Television" and Claire Messud for "This Strange Eventful History."

Other recipients announced Monday ranged from Amy M. Alvarez for her poetry collection "Makeshift Altar" to Sarah Lewis' nonfiction "The Unseen Truth: When Race Changed Sight in America." Penguin Random House editor Erroll McDonald, whose authors have include Wideman and Nobel laureates Toni Morrison and Wole Soyinka, won the editor/publisher award.

"The purpose of the awards is to recognize literary excellence without limitations or restrictions," the foundation's announcement reads in part. □



Joy Reid speaks during the during the TIME 100 Summit, April 23, 2019, in New York, left, and Percival Everett appears at the Booker Prize award dinner in London, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024. Associated Press



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NFL teams don't use game-day roster flexibility with emergency QBs as often as one would think

By SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Pro Football Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Brian Schottenheimer is two games into his head coaching career with the Dallas Cowboys, and he didn't have an emergency quarterback designated for either one.

This after a year as Dallas offensive coordinator when the Cowboys had Trey Lance available as a third quarterback every week because they wanted to protect him from waivers. The NFL is into its third season since the return of an old rule that essentially allows a free roster spot on game day with the emergency designation on a quarterback. Yet, the provision has been utilized by less than half the teams through the first two years. The Cleveland Browns are among those to use it this season. They have four quarterbacks on the roster, and Shedeur Sanders has been the emergency third QB each of the first two games.

Only once has "3QB" the designation on official NFL game reports actually played, and it involved the Browns last year. Jameis Winston followed Deshaun Watson, who was injured, and Dorian Thompson-Robinson, who was pulled in the fourth quarter after his second interception in a 21-14 loss to Cincinnati. "I go back and forth," Schottenheimer said. "Literally, you asked the question, so my mind is processing. It would be great to have three guys active just in case. But they certainly have done the studies and know kind of what they're looking for. We're all dealt the same cards, and you decide how you want to



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Will Grier reacts after a play against the Atlanta Falcons during the second half of a preseason NFL football game Aug. 22, 2025, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

use your roster."

Will Grier has the spot Lance occupied last season, but is on the practice squad rather than the 53-man active roster.

During the the Cowboys' wild 40-37 overtime win against the New York Giants on Sunday, Grier was unavailable behind Dak Prescott and Joe Milton. About this time last season, roughly half of the NFL's 32 teams had a third quarterback on the active roster. The percentage is about the same now. Game day rosters are smaller, usually 48 players.

The teams that don't have a third QB on the active roster have at least one on the practice squad. Just before the season started, Detroit was the only team without a third quarterback, but the Lions signed C.J. Beathard to the practice squad. The teams without a third QB on the active roster have prioritized other positions over something that

could be viewed as a luxury.

"I think it's a freebie (on game day), but it's still tough because of the numbers," Grier said. "I think it just comes down to the teams with the numbers and the ability to do that." Numbers make it tough for third quarterbacks in another way. Since practice reps are so important for the starter, and the backup to a lesser degree, the rest of the QBs are largely left on their own to try to develop.

"In my opinion, nonexistent," Grier said when asked what he thought of quarterback development in the NFL. Trevor Siemian, the 33-year-old QB3 on Tennessee's practice squad, wouldn't argue.

"I think just the onus is on you," said Siemian, a seventh-round pick out of Northwestern who started 24 games over his second and third seasons with Denver, the team that drafted

him but moved on after three years. "This is pro sport. There's not much hand-holding in this league. And if there is, it doesn't last very long."

Titans quarterbacks coach Bo Hardegree described a post-practice scene in which the QBs behind rookie starter Cam Ward would go back through that day's script on reps they didn't get. Schottenheimer said the Cowboys do something similar, with quarterbacks coach Steve Shimko having Milton and Grier mirror any throw Prescott made in practice.

"So they're getting their throws," Schottenheimer said. "They're getting their footwork. It's not perfect, but they are getting the work and the throws that they need."

The NFL had the emergency QB rule from 1991-2010 and brought it back in 2023. The rule's return was prompted by the NFC championship game the

previous season.

Brock Purdy badly injured his elbow on San Francisco's first possession in a 31-7 loss to Philadelphia, and backup Josh Johnson exited with a concussion early in the second half. Purdy returned, but basically couldn't throw. He had two short completions. The 49ers had 47 yards in the second half and 164 for the game.

"That probably shifted a lot of focus just because of the prominent moment that that was," said New Orleans coach Kellen Moore, a former quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator. "I think it's a luxury and when it's available to us, certainly we want to utilize it as much as you can just because it gives you the insurance policy that you need."

With Lance having moved on to the Los Angeles Chargers in free agency where the 2021 No. 3 overall pick is the backup to Justin Herbert Schottenheimer said the Cowboys have emergency plans for a third QB when Grier is inactive. He didn't want to reveal specifics.

It's safe to say the same is true for the other teams that don't have an emergency QB3 on game day. The league tried to loosen the rules to make it easier for third QBs to be brought up from the practice squad on game day, but the union rejected the proposal on the grounds that teams would try to stash players on the practice squad, relegating most of them to that pay scale. Teams can bring up quarterbacks from the practice squad on game day, but they must be part of the active roster. □

Dallas Wings star Paige Bueckers is WNBA Rookie of the Year

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**
AP Sports Writer
Dallas Wings star Paige Bueckers was a runaway choice for WNBA Rookie of the Year after one of the best debut seasons in

league history. Bueckers received 70 of the 72 votes from sports writers and broadcasters in balloting announced by the league on Tuesday. The other two went to

Washington Mystics guard Sonia Citron. Bueckers, who in a whirlwind week last spring went from leading UConn to its 12th national championship to being drafted with the No. 1 overall pick, was a bright spot on a team that tied the Chicago Sky with a league-worst 10-34 record. The AP Rookie of the Year, she averaged 19.2 points on 47.7% shooting along with 3.9 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 1.6 steals. But those numbers don't tell the complete story. Her 692 points and 194 assists were the third most by a WNBA rookie. The highlight was when she scored 44 in a loss to the Los Angeles Sparks on Aug. 20. It was the WNBA's highest

point total this season and the most ever by a rookie. She also became the first player in league history to score 40 or more while shooting 80% in a game. That performance came near the end of a 30-game double-digit streak, the third longest to start a career behind A'ja Wilson's 33 games in 2018 and Candace Parker's 32 games in 2008. Though Bueckers was widely expected to receive rookie of the year honors, the way she was presented the trophy was a surprise ahead of an appearance on The Jennifer Hudson Show. She was walking through the program's Spirit Tunnel when Commissioner Cathy Engelbert stopped her.

"I bet I'm the last person you thought you'd see on this cool spirit tunnel," she said before handing the trophy to a grinning Bueckers. "But I'm here to present you with the 2025 Kia WNBA Rookie of the Year Award. Congratulations." The crew chanted "Rookie of the Year! Rookie of the Year!" as Bueckers headed toward the studio. She turned and thanked them. Bueckers made an immediate impact when she arrived at UConn in 2020. She was the consensus national player of the year as a freshman and became a three-time All-American. She played just 17 games her second season and sat out the 2022-23 campaign with a torn ACL.



Dallas Wings guard Paige Bueckers dribbles up court against the Indiana Fever during the second half of a WNBA basketball game Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, in Dallas.

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McLaughlin-Levrone threatening long-time world 400m record after breaking U.S. time

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer
TOKYO (AP) — One record down, and maybe one more to go for Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone. McLaughlin-Levrone finished her 400-meter semifinal at the world championships Tuesday in 48.29 seconds, shattering a 19-year-old American mark held by Sanya Richards-Ross by .41 seconds.

It was the fastest time of 2025, the seventh fastest time ever, and it makes the thought of breaking the 40-year-old record of 47.60 seem totally possible in the final Thursday. "Honored, for sure," McLaughlin-Levrone said about breaking the U.S. record she's been targeting since she moved over from the hurdles. "I definitely wasn't expecting that time. It just shows the fitness is there. I'm excited for the finals and grateful to have taken down a record by an amazing woman." Richards-Ross, the best American 400 runner of



United States' Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone competes in the women's 400 meters semifinal at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

her generation, set the record of 48.70 in 2006 and won the 400 at the London Olympics six years later. Now, all eyes are on the mark set by an East German, Marita Koch, in 1985. It is one of the few remaining records from the Eastern Bloc era.